

25 Years Ago

APPEAL for General Insurrection

(August 1945)

Dear compatriots,

FOUR years ago in one of my letters I called on you to unite because unity is strength and only strength enables us to win back independence and freedom.

At present, the Japanese army has collapsed and the National Salvation movement has spread to the whole country. The Front for the Independence of Viet Nam (Viet Minh) has a following of millions from all social strata: intellectuals, peasants, workers, businessmen, soldiers, and from all nationalities in the country: Kinh, Tho, Nung, Muong, Man, etc. In the Front, our compatriots are marching side by side whether they are men or women, old or young, Buddhist or Catholic, rich or poor.

Recently, the Viet Minh Front convened the Viet Nam People's Congress and appointed the National Liberation Committee to lead the entire people in the grim fight for national independence.

Such a development is a great advance in the history of our people's century-old struggle for liberation. It heartens our compatriots and fills me with great joy.

However, it is not enough. Our battle is bound to be a long and hard one. Although the Japanese have been defeated, we shall not be liberated overnight. We still have to make further efforts and carry on the struggle. Only with unity and militancy can our country secure independence.

The Viet Minh Front is at present the basis for our national union and struggle. Join the Viet Minh Front, give it your support, make it greater and stronger!

At present, the National Liberation Committee is a kind of provisional government. Unite around it and see to it that its policies and orders are carried out throughout the country!

In this way, our Fatherland will certainly regain independence and our people will certainly win freedom soon.

Dear compatriots,

The decisive hour in the destiny of our people has struck. Let us all rise up to free ourselves with our own strength.

Many oppressed peoples the world over are eyeing with such interest their attempts to recover independence. We cannot afford to lag behind.

Forward! Forward! Under the banner of the Viet Minh Front, compatriots, march forward valiantly!

NGUYEN AI QUOC

Editor's Note: Nguyen Ai Quoc was an assumed name of President Ho Chi Minh.

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RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

(August 14 and 15, 1945)

(Excerpts)

ON THE INDOCHINA SITUATION

1) Since March 9, 1945, Japanese brutality and inhumanity has become more and more apparent.

2) The Indochinese peoples, reduced to misery and indignation, have turned to the revolution and even a number of major have sided with it.

(Continued page 8)



AUGUST 1945: Rally in front of the Hanoi Municipal Theatre attended by units of the Liberation Army newly arrived from the Viet Bac.

SAIGON UNABLE TO CURB POPULAR OPPOSITION

OPPPOSITION to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime remained stiff this month and spread to numerous cities in South Viet Nam.

First of all, a strike of 10,000 Lambretta drivers of the public transport service in Saigon erupted on Aug. 5. At a meeting of representatives of the strikers, a petition was passed, demanding the lift of the ban on import of spare-parts which meant death to their trade. The action brought this popular means of transport in Saigon to a complete standstill.

on charges of "subversive manoeuvres" and "dealings with communists." Their election by an overwhelming majority vote to the leading body of the GAS showed the scope and bitterness of student enmity for the Thieu clique. The latter was known to have bailed their leaders only under increased student pressure.

Now, the students' objective has been summed up in the protest letter they sent to Thieu on Aug. 11 and that addressed on Aug. 10 to the "Defence Ministry" and the Head of the "Department of Military Training on Campuses": immediate release of students still under detention, immediate end to acts of savage repression against students, and abolition of campus military training.

Earlier, the students had held meetings to make known their desiderata: On Aug. 9, "a bonfire of militancy" gathering 300 participants, and next day, at the locale of the GAS, a press conference, were given to this effect. At these rallies, students forced to undergo military

training at the Quang Trung camp in Thu Duc, and others, arrested on Aug. 5 when they visited striking Lambretta drivers, denounced the ill-treatment and brutalities inflicted on them by the puppet administration.

It was also reported that at the Quang Trung camp, reactionary military officers and instructors took reprisals for student protests by victimizing those students who came there for military training, without which they would be barred from exams and risk being drafted into the puppet army before they finished school. The students complained about the overstrain that hit them, being forced to terminate, in 4 weeks, a training programme designed for 9 weeks; deplorable material living conditions brought the sick rate to 90% among the trainees, etc.

On Aug. 12, at the premises of the GAS, 9 students held a 24-hour hunger-strike in protest against such ill-treatment.

One of the student representatives, arrested on Aug. 5

(Continued page 8)

A Cause Whose Triumph is a Certainty

THE struggle of the Afro-Americans in the United States which began in 1959 has been kept up from generation to generation against the American exploiters and rulers. Against ever more ruthless exploitation and repression, they have risen up and met violence with violence. This has been the tenor of their movement since August 11, 1965 when thousands of Viet residents (Los Angeles) flew to arms against the brutalities of policemen and racists.

The "hot summers" of 1965, 1967 and 1968 shook the States and were the terror of the American rulers.

Since its inauguration, the Nixon-Agnew tandem has frenziedly stepped up the repression of Black people. But the stubborn resistance of the latter in 1969 and these last months heralded that "new hot summers" were forthcoming.

The Afro-Americans in the US have realized that only by force of arms can freedom and liberation be achieved. They have understood that they must not only battle for democratic liberties and the right to work, but also for the emancipation of thousands of Black people in the US. The most lucid leaders in the Black people's movement are also aware that the road to victory must go through their own unity and their solidarity with progressive White Americans and with the world revolutionary movement against the common enemy US aggressive imperialism.

The struggle of the Afro-Americans in the US is of great revolutionary significance for the liberation of peoples and social progress. It occupies a very important strategic position, because it is unfolding right in the US, ring leader of imperialism and world policeman.

80th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (August 20, 1970)

THE US SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE NFL AND PRG TEN POINTS

WHILE the American and puppet delegates harped on old themes, the envoys of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam produced new proofs of Nixon's continued intensification and expansion of the Indochina war; all B-52's based in the Pacific area had been hurled into attacks against South Viet Nam; Huong Lam village, north of the DMZ, had been razed to the ground by US aircraft, including B-52's; additional Saigon and Thai troops had been sent to Laos, etc.

Mr Nguyen Minh Vy (DRVN) concluded that for the Conference to progress the Nixon administration must give serious consideration to the overall ten-point solution of the NFL and the PRG of RVSN.

ON August 12, 1970, the Treaty between the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Federal Republic was signed.

Under the treaty, the two parties affirm their endeavor to further the normalization of the situation in Europe undertake to refrain from the threat or use of force in any matters affecting security in Europe or international security, as well as in their mutual relations, undertake to respect without restriction the territorial integrity of all states in Europe within their present frontiers; declare that they have no territorial claims against anybody, regard the present frontiers of all states in Europe as

the continuous growth of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the all-round development of the GDR and its rising international position, of the solidarity of the socialist countries members of the Warsaw Treaty, and also as a result of the failure of the Kheiser Government's new "Out-Politik," the Willy Brandt administration has had to sign the USSR-West Germany Treaty.

This is a blow dealt at the ambitions of the bellicose and revanchist forces in West Germany which have been fostering the neo-fascist organization headed by Von Thadden and plotting to change the map

the Brandt administration made clear its close bonds with the US imperialists' global strategy of aggression. Brandt's collusion with the United States has been further revealed when he promptly came out in support of Nixon's policy of prolonged war of aggression in Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries, when he ruthlessly repressed the West German people's demonstration against the US imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam, and tried to justify the US aggressors' atrocities as, for instance, in Son My and Con Son (Pavlo Condon - Ed.).

Fully aware of the West German imperialists' schemes

Hanoi Press Opinion

On USSR-West Germany Treaty

inviolable, including the Oder-Neisse line which forms the Western frontier between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

It is common knowledge that so far the West-German governments have always pursued a revanchist and expansionist policy in an attempt to do away with the German Democratic Republic and to carry out infiltration, sabotage and subversion against the East-European socialist countries, and check the influence of socialism. For this purpose, they have engaged in an active military build-up, refused to recognize the frontiers which have taken shape in Europe since the end of World War II including the Oder-Neisse line and the frontier between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. They have blatantly ignored the fundamental, reasonable and logical demands of the GDR and have gone so far as to put forward the insolent claim to represent the whole of Germany, i.e. to annex the German Democratic Republic.

But under the impact of the deep changes favourable to the revolution in the world balance of forces, of the repeated attacks launched from all sides by the forces of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism against US-led imperialism now being weakened in all respects, and of

the West German people who are struggling for peace and security in Europe, in defence of their vital interests against the most bellicose and reactionary tendencies of West German imperialism. The Brandt administration has had to begin facing to a certain extent the facts in Europe, to recognize de facto the German Democratic Republic, and the inviolability of the present frontiers in Europe, including the Oder-Neisse line and the frontier between the two German states. These are positive points.

However, one cannot overlook the fact that the Bonn administration has recently sent letters to the Western countries, emphasizing the "rights of the Allies in Berlin and in the whole of Germany." Right before the signing of the treaty the West German administration reaffirmed its "right to work for the reunification of Germany," which means in essence the eventual annexation of GDR into West Germany. On August 13, 1970, Barren, leader of the West German Christian Democratic Party, urged that the situation in West Berlin be stabilized, that "the East German people be given genuine freedom" and that the frontiers be opened to "men, information and ideas" before the treaty was ratified by the West German Parliament.

In its programme of action, and manoeuvres, the press and public opinion in the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist countries have, in the past four days, put everyone on his guard against West German revanchist ambitions.

On August 12, 1970, the Soviet paper *Krasnaya Zvezda* pointed out that West Germany still remained in the aggressive NATO military bloc with a revanchist army.

The world's peoples should keep their weather eyes open over the "New Eastern policy" and peaceful evolution strategy that West Germany, in collusion with the US imperialists, is striving to carry out.

It is time the Brandt government renounced West German expansionism and evenhandedly recognized *de jure* the GDR, and respected the legal status of West Berlin as an independent political entity.

As a member of the socialist camp now engaged in a stubborn resistance against the US imperialists' cruel war of aggression, the Vietnamese people have always staunchly supported the effort of the Soviet Union, the GDR and the other socialist countries against the expansionist and annexationist tendencies of West German revanchism and for the defence of peace and security in Europe and in the whole world.

NHAN DAN (The People)
Aug. 14, 1970

2-9-1945

2-9-1970

The D.R.V.N.
is 25
Years Old

Some Figures

PUBLICATIONS

IN 1939, the record year under colonialism, 1,570,000 copies of books were printed for the whole of Viet Nam. In 1969, in North Viet Nam alone the total was 28 million, i.e. 25 times over, dealing with a great variety of subjects.

LIBRARIES

BEFORE 1945, in the whole of Indochina (Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia put together) there were but four libraries with a very small readership. Today there exist in North Viet Nam 109 libraries run by cultural services. In 1969, the National Central Library was patronized by 165,000 readers (at a time when many public services and all schools and universities evacuated the city).

CINEMA AND THEATRES

UNDER the colonial regime, the overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese never went to the cinema or theatre. In 1969 alone the performances of Central Dance and Song Ensembles drew audiences totalling 3,210,710 and film shows recorded 86.3 million attendances. Most of the films were produced by Vietnamese studios.

MUSEUMS

THERE was in the whole of Indochina only the Douis Finot Museum. In North Viet Nam, there are now, besides the Museums of History, Revolution, Arts and of Haiphong, many small others: the Nghe Tinh Soviet Museum, the Museum of Dien Bien Phu, Viet Bac, Mong Cai (in Quang Nam province) and some 400 hundred small museums in provinces, districts or villages. In the past ten years the Revolutionary Museum was visited by a million people and 95 foreign delegations.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

UNDER colonial domination, there was only a College of Fine Arts. The largest class had 10 students.

Now there are four colleges: Fine Arts, Industrial Art, Music and Library; 13 intermediate vocational schools, including two Culture and Arts schools for the Viet Bac and Tay Bac autonomous zones. Elementary schools of Fine Arts have been operating or will be opened in provinces or towns.

Tens of thousands of middle and high level cultural workers have been formed in schools (3,300 cadres) or in refresher courses (6,700); in addition, there are 500 cadres trained abroad and many batches of graduates from elementary art schools.

If activists of millions of clubs, scores of thousands of amateurs' artistic teams and ensembles, and thousands of amateurs who have gone through basic refresher courses are included, we now can boast an important contingent of cultural workers.

A National Socialist Culture Promoted

THE Vietnamese people are possessed of an age-old national culture. Original, patriotic and progressive, it has been maintained and developed in the course of a millenary struggle against foreign invasion.

For nearly a century, French colonialism did its best to debase and enslave it. It also undertook a vast effort of obscurantism and dehumanization against our people. Ninety-five per cent of Vietnamese were illiterate. Millions of people never read a book nor went to the cinema or theatre in their life time. Gambling, drinking, opium addiction, prostitution... were rife.

That is why the Indochinese Communist Party (now the Viet Nam Workers' Party) regarded the combat against this cultural enslavement as part and parcel of the national liberation movement.

As early as 1943, in its *Theses on Cultural Policy* the Party advocated the promotion of a new culture with "a national democratic content."

That line won over patriotic and progressive writers and artists. Allied within the Cultural Association for National Salvation, they fought side by side with the people against the French colonialists, the Japanese invaders and galvanized them in the exciting days of the August 1945 Insurrection.

A National Cultural Congress was held in the first months of the new regime. On the agenda were such items as: mission of culture

in the new revolutionary stage, a culture serving the resistance war and national construction with as objectives the wiping out of the invaders, famine and illiteracy. Cultural activities helped push such immediate tasks as: increased production, anti-illiteracy campaign, and resistance to the French colonialists' comeback in South Viet Nam.

On December 19, 1946, when the war of resistance spread all over the country, the cultural workers responding to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, went into the masses. In 1948, in the thick of the fight, the Second National Cultural Congress and the First National Congress of Literature and Arts were convened under the "Promote a resistance culture, impel the resistance with culture" watchword. In his report *Marxism and Vietnamese Culture*, Trung Chinh, the then Party Secretary General, systematically elaborated on the 1943 theses.

Culture must meet the needs of the national democratic revolution. Cultural workers must turn to the masses, first and foremost to the workers, peasants and soldiers, and serve them. Ideologically better armed, artists and writers mixed the masses. They kept up a cultural movement spreading from the northernmost Viet Bac resistance bases to the Plain of Reeds, south of the country.

Thousands of poems, songs, musical compositions appeared in the fire of the fight. They were not all occasional

works. Some of them of real value were largely popularized at home and abroad. Foreign works were translated into the vernacular.

Such cultural organizations as the Cultural Association for National Salvation, Musicians' Groups, Information and Propaganda Department, stepped up their activities and to did publishing houses, printing, book and periodical distribution services.

The cinema made its debut. The first films were shot in Viet Bac and in the South. Film-screening teams, artistic groups and ensembles were set up by the government, local administrations and army.

In short, a culture at the service of the resistance was blooming everywhere and made a great contribution to the Dien Hien Phu victory.

With the re-establishment of peace in 1954, a new revolutionary era opened up. The institution of the Ministry of Culture in September 1955 marked a new step in the organization of the cultural work. Since then, this has been progressing with three tasks: to inculcate socialism in the masses, popularize Marxism-Leninism, erase the vestiges of bourgeois, petty-bourgeois and feudalism; to raise the cultural standard of the masses, vulgarize science and technology to help boost production, fight outmodel manners and customs; to meet the recreational, literary and artistic requirements of the masses.

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The Yen Lien Thang agricultural co-op, Ninh Binh province, has been awarded a Labour Order, 3rd class, for its achievements in water culture.
Photo: At the co-op's reading-room.

Reminiscences of General Vo Nguyen Giap

A few days after our return to Hanoi word came that immediately after the Japanese surrender, the

On August 28, the uprising had spread to most provinces in Nam Bo (South Viet Nam). Eight hundred thousand inhabitants of Saigon — Cholón staged a demonstration. The Viceroy sent by Bao Dai was forced to resign a few days after his arrival. Faced with the people's might, the tens

THE owners of the house in Hang Ngang Street in Hanoi had put the first floor at one disposal. The whole second floor had been reserved for Uncle Ho to give him a quiet working place. But he did not like to have a whole floor to himself so he joined us downstairs. In those days, comrades To (2) and Hoan (3), on Uncle Ho's instructions, were still remaining at Tan Trao. For the servants and neighbours Uncle Ho and we were "the old and young country relatives on a visit to the capital." Comrade Ninh (4)

The presence in Hanoi of trained and tested revolutionary armed forces stirred up a great popular enthusiasm. A review of Liberation troops and Hanoi self-defence units at the Municipal Theatre Square inspired great joy and confidence in the population.

On August 28, the list of members of the Provisional Government was published by Hanoi newspapers. The composition of the government was indicative of the

a helping hand of their criss-crossing clever enough and British take advantage of interests and to expand the when their root in Asia and British militarists and Italian

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MILITARISM

Nixon assumed office when the US global suffered heavy setbacks the Indochina morass. An important point of his policy "is a greater understanding of Japan to neo-colonialism in Asia foremost to cope with resistance of the Indochina peoples. In his February report on "US foreign policy in the late seventies," Nixon made

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MILITARISM REVIVED

Hard hit by her defeat which stripped her of all colonies, outlets, sources of food and raw material supplies and all major areas where to accumulate and invest capitals, Japan would not have been able to rehabilitate and develop herself without US help. The relations between the US and Japan after World War II confirm Lenin's

Since the early fifties, the Japanese rulers have been tailing after the US in military adventures in Asia. Japan was a logistic base for the US in the Korean war and shipped in 25,000-strong force for that war under US command. In 1963, together with the US imperialists, the Japanese authorities elaborated a "three-arrow" plan of aggression against the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Chinese People's Republic and the Soviet Union. On June 24, 1965, the Sato government and the Jung government signed the Japan-ROK treaty, which opened the door to an aggressive North-East Asia Treaty Organization and enshrined South Korea. This US-Japan collusion in the aggression against Asia and the socialist camp has been transparent in the various stages of development of the Japan-US "security

The Vietnamese people are firmly convinced that in face of the high vigilance and militant solidarity of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the peoples of the socialist countries and progressives in the world including those in the United States and Japan, the US imperialist aggressors and their confederates will certainly be defeated.



THE owners of the house in Hang Ngang Street in Hanoi had put the first floor at our disposal. The whole second floor had been reserved for Uncle Ho to give him a quiet working place. But he did not like to have a whole floor to himself so he joined us downstairs. For those days, comrades To (2) and Hoan (3), on Uncle Ho's instructions, were still remaining at Tan Trao. For the servants and neighbours Uncle Ho and we were "the old and young country relatives on a visit to the capital." Comrade Ninh (4)

The provinces to the North of the capital had been instructed to hamper as much

The Standing Committee had resolved that the presentation day of the Provisional

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The First Election in the Village

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nguyen Dinh Thi, born in 1924, belongs to a generation of writers strongly influenced by the Revolution and the Resistance. During the resistance against the French colonialists (1946-1954) he was a battalion political commissar and had published poems of a new lyricism and a novel, *Yang Kich* (Shock Troops), on the life of a popular combatant, which was awarded a literary prize.

One of his works on the present resistance against US aggression, *Mai Tran Tran Cao* (High-Up Front), has been adapted in French by Madeleine Kiffault.

Nguyen Dinh Thi is Secretary General of the Association of Vietnamese Writers.

Below is an excerpt from his novel *Vu Bo* (Dykes Break) which vividly describes life in North Viet Nam during the years preceding the 1945 August Revolution.

Xi (N) head thrust straight to the kitchen. Lights were seen glimmering in some houses, a few rifle barrels near the deputy's house were heard, and there was a great general commotion. Passing by school-teacher Ho's, Xuan heard the man talking and laughing with many people. She again broke into a run and, on reaching her house, gasped down on the doorstep, not knowing where to go now. Tears again rolled down her cheeks. Oh, how sad she was! No more crying! Xuan still hid her face in her arms.

Daylight came without her knowing it. Good heavens! She must cook rice for the men now at the meeting! Hurriedly she washed the rice and lit the fire. No more crying! Xuan still hid her face in her arms.

The school-teacher's house was all in a flutter. What was going on there? Xuan heard the cooking pot sizzle and ran to the end of the garden for a look.

In the courtyard, school-teacher Ho was laughing heartily with some of his pupils who often came to his house for a visit or a lesson.

"What a day! What a day, friends! Unfold the flag, and let's all go to the communal house!" A red flag with a golden star appeared amidst the group who set out for the meeting place. The fluttering flag gradually disappeared in the distance.

Xuan returned to her kitchen, poured rice into the cooking pot. She too ought to go to the village house to see what was going on there! But what about the rice? She understood too seriously, not knowing what to do.

"No! No! No! I'm confused!"

The girl, with her little sister Xuan in her arms, rushed into the house.

"Come to the communal house with me! All my people are there now. My father, my mother too! Come, come! So many people are already there!"

"But I've got the cooking to do!"

"No, you must go! Do you hear there the family?"

All right, anyway, let's first take the pot off the fire. As she got up, Hien grasped her hand and dragged her out of the kitchen.

"What are you doing, Hien? Give me little rice, I'll carry her!"

"Go! Go!"

When the girls reached the communal house courtyard, they found a great crowd of people. People were talking one to another, not knowing where to go now. Tears again rolled down her cheeks. Oh, how sad she was! No more crying! Xuan still hid her face in her arms.

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Literary Activities

A scientific symposium on "Uncle Ho and Literature and Arts" has just been held by the Literature Institute of the Viet Nam Social Sciences Committee. Present at the gathering were literary researchers, writers and journalists. Their speeches focused on these main themes:

- President Ho Chi Minh's literary career,
- President Ho Chi Minh's writings on literature and arts and the press,
- President Ho Chi Minh's influence on modern literature,
- Vietnamese literary workers' feelings for President Ho Chi Minh.

On July 1970 a treatise entitled *Kien and Realism* of Nguyen Du by Le Dinh Ky, a professor of the Literature Faculty of Hanoi General University, was published by the Social Sciences Publishing House. It is an elaborate study of the most outstanding Vietnamese poet of the 18th century and his master work.

The Popular Literature and Arts Section of the Hanoi Teachers Training College has recently convened a scientific conference where were submitted such useful reports as: *Some Traces of the Hung Dynasty in Legends and Customs of Vinh Phu Province*, *Some Melodic Problems in Vietnamese Popular Songs*, etc.

530 treatises on social sciences have been of late completed by many colleges and universities. Among the valuable and interesting works were *Tu Hui's Poetry in Three Decades*, *Tay Nung Minority Nationality's Folklore*, *Artistic Style in Vietnamese Traditional Popular Poetry*, etc.

The literary section of Yen Bai province has just reported on the first stage of a literary competition launched since May 1, 1967: 7 out of 16 short stories and 11 out of 327 poems have been given prizes. The competition will go on till the end of this year.

The Vietnamese Writers' Union is feverishly preparing the first school year in 1971 of the College of Writers for the most talented among young writers and poets.

An Important Literature Work Under Way

THE Social Sciences Committee has just been charged by the Government with the elaboration of a treatise on the history of Vietnamese literature. A body of researchers has been appointed, which includes professors and literature specialists, under the direction of Dang Thai Mai, President of the Literature Institute. The supervisory group will be headed by Deputy-Minister of Culture Ha Huy Giap.

Vietnamese literature has a time-honoured history and counts great classical works such as *Kien* by Nguyen Du. Nevertheless, up to the

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News from CAMBODIA

★ US War Escalation Condemned

THE spokesman of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia issued on Aug. 11 a statement strongly condemning the massive and widespread B-52 bombings on Cambodian territory as a fresh act of aggression of US imperialism. In face of such a move, the Khmer people will strengthen their resolve to fight until victory, whatever the efforts and sacrifices they may have to make, the statement stressed.

★ National Union Royal Government Denies All Accords Signed by Lon Nol - Sirik Matak

In a statement dated August 11, 1970, the National Union Royal Government of Cambodia recalled that in its May 4, 1970 statement, it had announced its decision to honour all international agreements, treaties and protocols signed by Cambodia up to March 18, 1970. Consequently, it does not recognize and will not recognize any bilateral or international treaties, agreements or protocols under any form, concluded or renewed since March 18, 1970, contrary to the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique and the other governments or international organizations.

★ Khieu Samphan Appointed Vice-Premier

On August 10 a communiqué of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia announced that on recommendation of the FUNK Politbureau and Prime Minister Pen Nouth and by a decree of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the FUNK, Mr. Khieu Samphan was appointed Vice-Premier while retaining his function as Minister of National Defence.

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News from LAOS

THE TWO LAO PRINCES' REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET AT KHANG KHAY

PRINCE Souphanouvong has agreed to Prince Souvanna Phouma's proposal dated June 25, 1970 for a meeting at Khang Khay between representatives of the two princes. This was notified to Prince Souvanna Phouma by Tiao Souk Vongkai, Prince Souphanouvong's special envoy, who arrived in Vientiane on July 31, in an interview with Phouma on August 11. Tiao Souk Vongkai stressed that Prince Souphanouvong's acceptance was a further proof of the good will of the Lao Patriotic Front to come to a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem.

It is to be recalled that the necessity of a peaceful solution in Laos has been pointed out by the Lao Patriotic Front in Prince Souphanouvong's message brought to Prince Souvanna Phouma by envoy Phindit Theng Tham in Vientiane five months ago (March 20). Only on June 25, Prince Souvanna Phouma reply with a positive proposal for a meeting at Khang Khay between the two princes' representatives. This has prompted Prince Souphanouvong to send Tiao Souk Vongkai to Vientiane with a message and full powers to discuss with Prince Souvanna Phouma practical matters related to the preparations for the meeting.

HOWEVER, according to the latest news the Vientiane administration has decided to raise new obstacles to the agreement of principle on the forthcoming meeting at Khang Khay between representatives of the two princes. It has appointed a "government delegation" to talks with the "other side" termed by it "the Lao Patriotic Front". In a commentary dated July 18, *KPL*, the *Pathet Lao* news agency, castigated this an utterly arrogant move on the part of the Vientiane administration. *KPL* pointed out that this administration was set up by a party that was not recognized by the Lao Patriotic Front, since the tripartite national coalition government, set up in 1962, had been overthrown by the rightist coup d'état of April 1964. Thus, if the present exchange of views on the proposed meeting of representatives of the two princes does not make headway, the blame must be laid at the door of the Vientiane administration and Prince Souvanna Phouma, *KPL* concluded.

(Continued from page 6)

was doing his bit, some were laughing, others cheering. It was a din as at the market place. Then Xuan saw old Teo rise to his feet, wave his hands, and shout out:

"That old headman has taken humble pie, so let us spare his life! But he was very fond of beating people, I think, so let us take off his pants and give him thirty strokes with a stick, just as a lesson!"

An uproar broke out. "That's right! Let's do it!" "Give him thirty strokes!" "Pull off his trousers!"

Two self-defence corps members dragged out the village chief and made him on the platform. One man seized a heavy stick.

The hubbub in the courtyard was so loud that each stroke of the stick, hundreds of people burst into loud laughter, until the crowd began to get up part of his trousers, his hair falling on his face, dragged himself away from the platform and disappeared.

"Silence! Silence! Let's listen to the Committee men!"

"They're going to fire again! Oh, what a day!" The volley again rang out over the communal house courtyard, a place where formerly the village officials assembled for feasting and opium smoking and disputing pickings, where people were summoned to be forced into labour gangs or the colonial army from which they might receive a reward, where peasants came to deliver rice, pay the poll-tax or failing that, to be beaten, tortured...

"Co! repeated: "All those who have no objection to school-teacher Ho's choice as chairman of the liberation committee, please raise your hands!"

"Yes, yes, we vote for him!" "School-teacher Ho is the son of old physician Giau, he's a good, kind-hearted man."

"If you agree, please raise your hands!"

"Raise our hand! How to do it?"

Upstairs laughter again rippled as a woman asked the question.

"But just put it up, quite simple!"

Once more, Coi shouted raising high his hand:

"Those who are for school-teacher Ho, please raise your hands like this!"

Avoid loud laughter and the hubbub, Xuan shot up from the crowd. Old folk with deep wrinkles round their eyes, men and women with sunken faces, giggling young people, all lifted their hands, to choose a new life for themselves from now on.

Xuan also raised her hand, she too had taken part in the election of the village committee.

"Now please put down your hands!"

More laughter among the crowd.

"Now listen to him!" The clamour was drowned out by Coi's voice.

"The first thing has adopted school-teacher Ho as its candidate to the chairmanship of the provisional liberation committee of our village. Those who agree with us, please raise your hands!"

Xuan could see the crimson-faced school-teacher standing behind Coi.

Most people in the courtyard felt greatly embarrassed. "School-teacher Ho's choice as chairman of the liberation committee, please raise your hands!"

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Saigon Unstable...

(Continued from page 1)

and released recently, disclosed that 4 of his comrades were still detained in Hoi Hoa jail and that during their detention, all 5 were brutally tortured because they denied the false charges made against them by the police.

The movement of Saigon students has received a powerful backing from the South Vietnamese students in Japan. On Aug. 8, the Association of Vietnamese Students in Japan made public a statement affirming their support. The same day, at a rally held outside the US Consulate, South Vietnamese students handed a protest letter to Tran Thien Khien then in Tokyo for secret talks with the reactionary Sato administration.

The struggle of war wounded and disabled for better living conditions gained in strength. On Aug. 4, in Nha Trang, an important military base 15 km southeast of Saigon, the offices of the province chief were raided by 1,000 war wounded, a number of them coming from the US Cam Ranh base some 100 km away.

In Quang Ngai, 122 km southeast of Da Nang, on Aug. 5, 2,000 war wounded and wives and children of puppet soldiers killed in action staged a bold demonstration in front of the residence of the province chief. On Aug. 10, in Binh Thuan, 500 war wounded assembled outside the residence of the governor of Gia Dinh province, next door to Saigon. The latter refused to meet them, an ex-captain of the puppet army slit his belly open with a knife, and another war wounded

slashed his own arm, in protest.

On Aug. 13, in Bien Hoa, 23 km northwest of Saigon, puppet troops opened fire on a column of 600 war wounded moving towards Ho Nai in search of a site to build their lodging. The firing claimed 6 wounded, 3 of them seriously. Their comrades carried them to Saigon and deposited them in front of Thien's palace where a big demonstration was held on Aug. 14.

Similar actions were mounted in Hue in the first weeks of August, against the puppet authorities' failure to keep their promises to the war wounded and disabled of their own armed forces.

The crackdown of the press continued unabated. In the first days of this month, the puppet administration seized 13 issues of 8 Saigon newspapers. The press, however, kept attacking the US-puppet policy of war. *Da Nam* (Democracy) on Aug. 4 wrote, "A cease-fire and the US troops pull-out are necessary for the re-establishment of peace in Viet Nam." *Tin Mai* (Confidential Reports) the same day published a poem glorifying peace and protesting war for which the Americans were responsible.

In its editorial on Aug. 7, *Tu Chu* (Sovereignty) wrote, "The leaders of the present regime can in no way break popular opposition with violence, threats or bribery. The regime cannot survive without foreign support." For its part, *Da Nam* (People) proposed on Aug. 17 the setting up of "People's Committees of Action against Rigid Elections" in which students must constitute the hard core. The Aug. 30 issue of *Dan Chu Moi* (New De-

mocracy) was seized for having affirmed that "peace will be re-established when we cease being at foreigners' beck and call."

BUDDHISTS' agitation was also kept up. In Da Nang, a bonze immolated himself by fire on Aug. 16 to protest the puppet administration and the Americans; it was the 3rd self-immolation in 10 weeks.

Defying puppet authorities, on Aug. 10, in announcing the reply from the representatives of the Buddhist RSVN, Superior Thich Huynh Quang, Secretary General of the Institute for the Propagation of Buddhist Faith, acknowledged that the PKG really desired peace and had shown moderation and a spirit of union.

For its part, the "Committee for the Defence of the Women's Right to Live," significantly headed by a former first lady of the Saigon regime, demanded on Aug. 2 "an end to prostitution the origin of which is the presence in South Viet Nam of foreigners."

The Western press reported on Aug. 17 that 80 representatives of 15,000 "displaced persons" crowded into a refugees' camp in Cho Lon began a hunger-strike and had shaved their heads to protest against the puppet neglect of their fate.

A significant indication of the strong popular feeling against the US-puppet has just been revealed by the Western press in connection with the election campaign for the partial renewal of the puppet Senate: the slogans put forth by several tickets, legal for all that, were clearly directed against the Thieu-Ky-Khieu clique and their masters: "Yankes go home!", "Thieu must resign!", or "Peace now!"

As Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme has rightly put it, failure of violence cannot be transformed into success by increased violence.

South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS

SOUTH OF 17TH PARALLEL

In Coc Bai region, southwest of Quang Tri town, Bataillons No 1 and No 4 of the puppet First Regiment took 300 casualties and 40 planes were downed (August 5 to 13).

East and south of Quang Tri provincial capital, a US company was wiped out together with one hundred men of a US motorised infantry company, some armoured vehicles of a puppet squadron and a choppers (August 11 and 12).

PLAF guns shelled two CPs of puppet Regiments No 1 and No 2 and other positions along the enemy defence line from Dong Ha to Con Tien, causing one hundred enemy casualties, and set afire Hill 344 (from the afternoon of August 16 to the morning of August 17).

Nam Hoa sub-sector, 8 km south of Hue city, was stormed: 150 enemy troops put out of action, a fuel dump and an ammunition depot burnt (night of August 6).

SAIGON FRONT

In two ambushes laid by the PLAF on Road No 23 (Xa Mat region) and near Trai Bi (south of Xa Mat) 115 enemy soldiers and 46 military vehicles were knocked out (August 6 and 7).

In a PLAF attack in Binh Thuan province against main units of the US 19th Brigade, an infantry company, and an artillery company wiped out: 200 GI casualties, 7 cannons and mortars put out of action, 2 choppers downed (night of August 8).

MEKONG DELTA

Two enemy posts, about 30 km south of Rach Gia provincial capital, were overrun, enemy rescue parties intercepted, 500 puppet soldiers disabled including "pacification" teams, 15 light combat launches sunk (August 10 and 11).

25 Years Ago

(Continued from page 1)

- 1) The anti-Japanese struggle for national salvation led by the Party has grown increasingly stronger and has been spreading all over South, Central and North Viet Nam. Guerrilla bases have been enlarged, the liberated zone and the Liberation Armed Forces established. Local popular power has been set up in six provinces of the highlands and midlands of North Viet Nam. Over a million people now have been granted democratic rights and exempted from taxes and corvée.
- 2) The Japanese command in Indochina has been deeply split. Japanese troops' morale has been sinking. The pro-Japanese Vietnamese traitors are panic-stricken.
- 3) The Allied Forces have come to enter our country and the French imperialists are attempting a comeback to Indochina.
- 4) The whole people are spilling for general insurrection to wreck back independence.

THE PARTY'S LINE

- 1) The golden opportunity for us to reconquer our independence is drawing near.
- 2) The situation has become a great emergency. Every deed should be guided by three principles:
 - a) Concentration: bend all our energies on the main tasks.
 - b) Unity: military and political unity, unity in action and in command.
 - c) Timing: act timely, act to miss any opportunity.
- 3) The objective of our effort is to regain total independence.
- 4) The present battle cries are:
 - Down with aggression!
 - Total independence!
 - Power for the people!

* Date of the coup d'état made by the Japanese to overthrow the French in Indochina.

THOSE UNFORGETTABLE DAYS

(Continued from page 4)

Government should also be the case when Viet Nam would officially declare independence and the foundation of the Democratic Republic. Uncle Ho and his policies, an oath had also to be prepared which would be taken before the people. President Ho and the Standing Committee immediately buckled down to the important task of wording the Declaration of Independence.

In a small, dark room of a house sprawling far inwards, in the heart of ancient Hanoi city, Uncle Ho was absorbed in his work, now writing, now typing.

The servants of the house did not know what the bright-eyed, chain-smoking old man in a faded brown jacket which was most the time unbuttoned, was working so hard for. Every time they asked him whether he needed anything, he would turn round smiling, and exchanged a few words with them and every time, he said he needed nothing.

They were quite unaware that they were witnessing an epoch-making event.

One morning, Uncle Ho and Comrade Nhat (8) went for us. The draft Declaration of Independence had been completed. Uncle Ho read the draft aloud and asked everyone of us to give his opinion. As he later told us, those moments had been the most pleasant ones in his life.

Twenty years before, he had come to the Versailles Peace Conference to press for immediate measures to improve living conditions and enforce democratic rights in the colonies. But even the most modest demands had been rejected by the imperialists. He had realized that one could not expect the capitalists to do anything out of humanitarianism. He had learned that he could only rely on his own people's efforts and forces.

In those hours, on behalf of the entire people, he was

reaping the fruits of eighty years of struggle.

On that day, we saw his still emaciated face beaming with intense joy.

Recorded by HUU MAI
(To be continued)

- (1) 1945.
- (2) Pham Van Dong's pseudonym.
- (3) Hoang Van Hoan, now Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee.
- (4) Tran Dang Ninh, former Chief of the Department of Logistics of the People's Army.
- (5) now member of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.
- (6) now Deputy-Chief of Staff of the People's Army.
- (7) A famed Orientalist.
- (8) Trung Chinh's pseudonym.